

## Literary Element (page 202)

### Ballad Stanza

#### Bonny Barbara Allan *and* Get Up and Bar the Door

The **time** has **come** to **read** a **verse**  
And **listen** for the **beat**,  
Because the **beats** appear in **bold**,  
It's **not** so **hard** a **feat**.

The above verse is a **ballad stanza**. Ballads use quatrains, or four-line stanzas. The first and third lines have four stressed syllables, or beats. Only the second and fourth lines rhyme. As you can see from the ballads on pages 203–206, most ballads adhere to this metrical pattern and rhyme scheme.

### ACTIVITY

**Directions** Select one quatrain from each ballad. In the second column, copy the quatrain, and then underline the stressed syllables and circle the words that rhyme. In the third column, note any variation in the ballad stanza form and try to infer why the particular rhythm and rhyme was used. If there are no variations, write *none*.

Ballad	Meter in One Stanza	Variations in Rhyme and Rhythm
Bonny Barbara Allan	1.	2.
Get Up and Bar the Door	3.	4.

5. Write your own ballad stanza on any subject. Try to maintain the appropriate meter.

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**Reading Strategy** (page 202)**Respond to Characters****Bonny Barbara Allan** *and* **Get Up and Bar the Door**

When you consider how characters make you feel, you are experiencing an emotional response. Read this brief description of a character's action and decide what you think of the man.

We watched the man walk down the dusty road, looking this way and that. A tan mongrel trotted toward him. As the dog went to sniff the man, he kicked it sharply in the ribs. The dog yelped and fled, crying. The tall man cracked a sneering smile and nodded, as if confirming something.

**ACTIVITY**

**Directions** Answer the following questions, taking care to use specific adjectives when describing your reaction to the characters and their behavior.

1. What do you think of Sir John Graeme in "Bonny Barbara Allan"? Cite evidence.

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2. What do you think of the "gentlemen" who come to the couple's house in "Get Up and Bar the Door"? Cite evidence.

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**Active Reading Graphic Organizer**

Ask your teacher for a copy of the Three-Column Table Graphic Organizer. Use it to record your responses to the main characters in the three ballads.

**Vocabulary Strategy** (page 202)**Word Parts: Understanding Prefixes****Bonny Barbara Allan and Get Up and Bar the Door**

“Goodman, you’ve spoken the *foremost* word,/Get up and bar the door!”

—Anonymous, “Get Up and Bar the Door”

**Connecting to Literature** The prefix *fore-* meaning “before” is one of the most popular prefixes in English. It is among the 20 prefixes that occur in approximately 97% of words with prefixes. In this case, the wife tells her husband that he has spoken the words that come before all others. A knowledge of **word parts**, including **prefixes**, helps readers determine the meanings of unfamiliar words.

Consider how a knowledge of the prefix *fore-* might help readers determine the meanings of these words.

Word	Meaning
forebear	• ancestor, or one who comes before
forecast	• to predict weather before it happens
forecheck	• a defensive hockey move to prevent an offensive play before it happens

**ACTIVITY**

**Directions** For each of the following words, explain how the prefix *fore-* relates to the meaning of the word. Consult a dictionary as necessary.

1. forearm

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2. forebode

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3. forefather

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4. forefinger

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5. foreground

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## Selection Quick Check (page 202)

### Bonny Barbara Allan *and* Get Up and Bar the Door

Use complete sentences to answer the following questions.

1. In "Bonny Barbara Allan," why is Sir John sick?

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2. In "Bonny Barbara Allan," why doesn't Barbara Allan return Sir John's affections?

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3. What similar fate do Barbara Allan and Sir John share?

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4. In "Get Up and Bar the Door," who do the Goodman and his wife decide will bar the door?

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5. Why does the Goodman in "Get Up and Bar the Door" become angry?

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